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## Conference News - March



### Fellowship and Conversation

Students in Care and Members in Discernment of the Georgia-South Carolina Association met in Atlanta on Saturday, March 19th for fellowship and conversation. Dorothea Lotze Kola, chair of the In Care-Discernment Committee and Kathy Clark, Associate Conference Minister, facilitated the program.



**Thank you for Service to the Denomination**  
Lyle Weible, member of Pleasant Hill Community Church in Pleasant Hill, TN has announced his resignation as an Annuitant Visitor for the Southeast Conference, effective at the close of summer 2011.

Lyle has served as an **Annuitant Visitor** for 4 years and has enjoyed meeting new colleagues and relating to neighbors at Uplands Retirement

Village in special ways. He thanks The Pension Boards – United Church of Christ for the opportunity to serve the church in this valued and valuable role.

Lyle also serves on the Board of Directors of the Southeast Conference as the **Liaison to Wider Church Ministries**.

***We thank Lyle for his service to the denomination!***

## SEC Annual Meeting 2011



**Meet Us June 11, 2011 at Central Congregational Church, UCC** in Atlanta, Georgia. Follow the link below to read letter of invite to the 45th Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ.

## UCC News

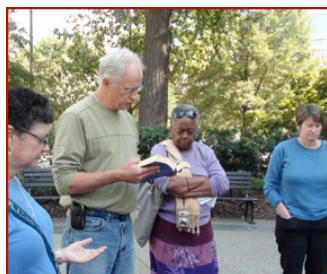
### UCC Newsroom

Headlines from the United Church of Christ

**New report examines impact of recession on congregational vitality**

The 2008 recession extended a decade-long erosion of the financial health of American congregations, with just 14 percent of the 11,077 randomly sampled congregations saying in 2010 that their financial health is excellent.





### Fallen Is Babylon | Pre-Synod Event in Tampa, FL

As part of the offerings of General Synod this summer, the SEC Theology Among the People (TAP) program, with Justice and Witness Ministries, will be sponsoring a pre-synod event called "Fallen Is SEC Justice and Witness Ministries Babylon: The American Empire and the Common-wealth of God."

Thursday, June 30 | First United Church in Tampa

The Reverend Joyce Hollyday, former editor and writer for Sojourner's Magazine and Co-Pastor of Circle of Mercy UCC in Asheville, NC, will guide participants through various texts of Revelation.

>> [Link here to read complete article and registration information.](#)



### News - UCC General Synod 2011 | July 1-5

Look Who is Going to General Synod from the Southeast Conference

- Virginia "Ginny" Nixon
- Tim Downs
- Dorinda Broadnax
- Marcia Bentley
- John Gill
- Bette Graves Thomas
- Jennifer Spears

>> [Link here to read their backgrounds](#)



### Come Support One our SEC Church Members

#### Dr. Jones - Key note at Synod Luncheon

Dr. Camara Phyllis Jones will be the keynote speaker at a sponsored meal luncheon during General Synod on Monday, July 4th and she will also be one of the featured workshop leaders during Suncoast Saturday, July 2nd.

Dr. Jones employed as the Research Director for Social Determinants of Health and Equity at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. She is a UCC member, worshipping at First Church, Atlanta. Please use [attached bulletin insert](#) to inform your congregations. Encourage your members who are attending General Synod to sign up for the sponsored meal and attend

the workshop during Suncoast Saturday.

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#### Save the Date

### SEC Clergy Gathering June 10

All SEC Clergy are invited to an informal, but important gathering to connect and converse. Please plan to join us and other UCC pastors, chaplains and ministers for dinner and conversation at 6:30 PM on Friday, June 10 - the evening before this year's SEC Annual Meeting. We will let you know the location and details in coming weeks, but save the date on your calendar now! Although most of us live far from one another and serve in many different settings, all of us long for supportive relationships with colleagues and a deeper sense of connection to one another within the UCC in the Southeast. This gathering will be a first step in getting to know one another better and creating a stronger network of support for clergy in our conference. Don't miss this chance to share good food, warm fellowship and your ideas about the kind of support that would be helpful to you in your life and work. Spouses, partners and significant others are welcome as well. For more information, please contact [Susannah Davis](#), [John Gill](#), or [Kathy Clark](#). [Link here for full article.](#)



### Peace!

Your colleagues in ministry,  
Susannah, John and Kathy

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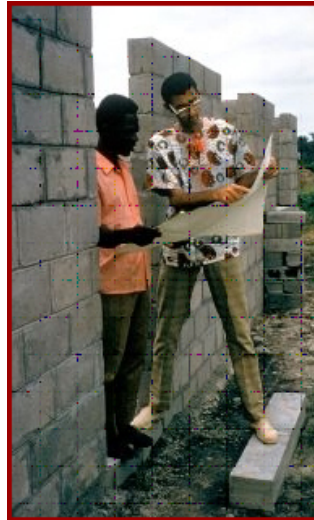
#### Theology Among the People

Tap Graduation will take place on **Saturday, August 27** in Atlanta.

Details will be forthcoming, but mark your calendars now. All former TAP graduates, current participants, facilitators, and family and friends of TAP are invited!

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### UCC Congo Trip - Hidden Histories

The Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ - Will be sending a missions delegation to Africa to visit one of the important "Hidden Histories" of the UCC.

Follow the link to read more on the UCC's role in the birth of the modern affordable housing movement.



Help support the August **CONGO Mission Trip** in your church.

**Follow this link** to purchase **Fair Trade Organic Coffee**, regular and decaf, TODAY!

### Transforming Churches - Transforming Lives

Debbie Spearman once again has been on the road traveling to **THANK** our fellow SEC churches for their generous gifts. >> **Continue to the website to read more on each of these visits across the Southeast.**

■ Kirkwood UCC ■ Sandy Creek UCC ■ Talladega First Congregational Church



### UCCOSSN Annual Meeting

The supporting hands of the on-going ministries of the United Church of Christ is holding its 2011 Annual Meeting "Go Tell It On the Mountains." The meeting, hosted by **First Church of Christ, Congregational, UCC** | North Conway, NH will be April 28-May 1. We are the **Office Support Staff** from local churches, conferences and national agencies and instrumentalities. We look forward to meeting with you this April. Follow the links below for additional event information.

- **UCCOSSN 2011 Annual Meeting Flyer**
- **UCCOSSN 2011 Annual Meeting Hotel Reservation**
- **UCCOSSN 2011 Annual Meeting Registration Form**



**Online Courses** (5 weeks) **and Webinars** being offered through **The Center for Progressive Renewal** this **APRIL:**



THE CENTER FOR  
PROGRESSIVE  
RENEWAL

> April 05 (Webinar) - Stewardship for Vital Congregations

Tuesday, April 05 7 - 08:15 p.m. (Eastern Time)

Anthony Robinson, speaker, teacher, preacher and consultant, will provide practical tools to help congregations engage in the spiritual practice of Christian stewardship and become part of its mission and ministry. Learn how to create a culture of giving and generosity in your congregation that changes lives and supports the mission and ministry of the church with adequate financial resources.

> April 04 - April 16 (5-week course) - The Socially Networked Church

Monday, April 04 - Monday, April 16, 2011 (Eastern Time)

This online course is designed to train and equip students in the basics of using social media as part of their overall approach to ministry. Focusing on philosophy, strategies, tools and generative questions at the intersection of social media and narrative, this course is a must for bringing your ministry fully into the digital age.

>> [Link here to read more about CPR.](#)

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FAVORITE LINKS

▶ Bridge 4 Faith

▶ The Center for Progressive Renewal

▶ United Church of Christ

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EVENTS CALENDAR

« < April 2011 > »

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
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Steps to Planting a New Church

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